

DX LISTENING DIGEST 5-027, February 12, 2005
Incorporating REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING
edited by Glenn Hauser, <http://www.worldofradio.com>

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NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn

NEXT AIRINGS OF WORLD OF RADIO 1263:

Sun 0330 WOR WWCN 5070
Sun 0400 WOR WBCQ 9330-CLSB
Sun 0430 WOR WRMI 6870
Sun 0730 WOR WWCN 3210
Sun 0930 WOR WRN1 to North America, also WLIQ-TV Lima OH SAP
Sun 0930 WOR KSFC Spokane WA 91.9
Sun 0930 WOR WXPB Rhinelander WI 91.7 91.9 100.9
Sun 0930 WOR WDCN Auburn NY 89.1 [unconfirmed]
Sun 0930 WOR KTRU Houston TX 91.7 [occasional]
Sun 1030 WOR WRMI 9955
Sun 1100 WOR RNI [archive]
Sun 1100 WOR R. Lavalamp
Sun 1400 WOR KRFP-LP Moscow ID 92.5
Sun 1500 WOR R. Lavalamp
Sun 2000 WOR Studio X, Momigno, Italy 1584 87.35 96.55 105.55
Sun 2100 WOR RNI
Mon 0330 WOR WRMI 6870
Mon 0400 WOR WBCQ 9330-CLSB
Mon 0430 WOR WSUI Iowa City IA 910 [week delay]
Mon 0530 WOR WBCQ 7415
Mon 0900 WOR R. Lavalamp
Mon 1100 WOR RNI [archive]
Mon 1700 WOR WBCQ after hours
Tue 0700 WOR WPKB Bridgeport CT 89.5
Tue 1000 WOR WRMI 9955
Tue 1700 WOR WBCQ after hours
Wed 1030 WOR WWCN 9985
Wed 1100 WOR RNI [archive]

Wed 1700 WOR WBCQ after hours

MORE info including audio links: <http://worldofradio.com/radioskd.html>

WRN ONDEMAND:

<http://new.wrn.org/listeners/stations/station.php?StationID=24>

OUR ONDEMAND AUDIO [also for CONTINENT OF MEDIA, MUNDO RADIAL]

WORLD OF RADIO 1263 (high version):

(stream) <http://www.w4uvh.net/wor1263h.ram>

(download) <http://www.w4uvh.net/wor1263h.rm>

WORLD OF RADIO 1263 (low version):

(stream) <http://www.w4uvh.net/wor1263.ram>

(download) <http://www.w4uvh.net/wor1263.rm>

(summary) <http://www.worldofradio.com/wor1263.html>

WORLD OF RADIO 1263 in the true shortwave sound of 7415:

(stream) http://www.piratearchive.com/media/worldofradio_02-09-05.m3u

(d'load) http://www.piratearchive.com/media/worldofradio_02-09-05.mp3

** AUSTRIA. 6015 for AWR German 1600-1630 will be kept for the remainder of B04, and again a 49 metre frequency used for this transmission in A05. This according to AWR's Lothar Klepp (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** BOLIVIA. Hola Glenn, Saludos desde Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA. En los últimos días ha llovido mucho por acá y el Estado Vargas ha sido declarado en emergencia. Afortunadamente Catia La Mar no ha sido tan golpeada por la naturaleza; tales vacaciones imprevistas me han puesto al frente de mi receptor, una vez más.

Gracias a la ausencia por unos minutos de Radio Ibitinga, pude captar el 09/02 a las 2349 UT, la señal de una tal Radio Municipal de (?), que emitía desde Catavi?, [Caranavi --- gh] La Paz. Mencionaba las frecuencias de 96.9 MHz y 4845 kHz. Captada en los 4845.11 con buena señal, hasta la reaparición de la brasilera en el mismo canal, minutos después (Adán González, Catia La Mar, Estado Vargas, VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CANADA. I wonder what happened to RCI today [Sunday Feb 6]. I usually listen to the Mailbag on the 2100 UT transmission to Europe, but today there was a problem. I checked it for the whole hour, including their other three frequencies, in French. Here's what I found:

English to Europe

5850 -- weak, but correct programming [Sweden relay as I recall - gh]

9770 -- Carrier came on several minutes after the hour. It was strong, with continuous upbeat music; no talking

French to Africa

7235 -- Very weak, French, probably correct programming; lots of interference
9565 -- covered by R. Marti
11845 -- strong, same music, parallel with 9770

Then, shortly after 2200 UT, I checked the RCI frequencies again. Everything I was able to hear was normal, with one exception:

English to the Americas

15180 ñ- same upbeat music; no talking

That's a four-hour transmission; the first three in English, the last one in French. That same music stayed on right through the French portion too. Maybe the guys at Sackville were too busy setting up their Super Bowl party. Anyhow, in this case, let's hope they *don't* JKDI! (Pete Bentley, NY, Feb 6, by P-mail, retyped by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Already explained in recent issues, and Pete will have heard about it on WOR 1263, but P-mail contributions equally deserve to be published, ASAP. On Feb 12 at 0621, RKI relay --- er, KBS Mundial on 6045 in Spanish vanished, so they are still having problems. Fortunately this only lasted 3 minutes (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

6175, 12/2. Voz de Vietnam, 0400-0406, noticias, saludan a la primavera, mala modulaci n, SINPO 24322 (Jos  Miguel Romero, Spain, Noticias DX via DXLD)

Bill Westenhaver mentioned a failure of the ~~YY~~Bell circuit~~YY~~ to Sackville. Does this mean landline? But according to <http://hawkins.pair.com/rci1.shtml> the Canadian Anik satellite system is in use to feed Sackville, and the satellite dishes portrayed there are aiming at two different positions, presumably of today's Anik F1 and Anik F2 birds. No mention of radio feeds at Lyngsat (only the CBC TV feeds on Anik F1, in the professional 4:2:2 format and additionally encrypted although 4:2:2 cannot be received with consumer equipment anyway), but who knows what system is in use; Lyngsat also doesn't know anything about the German APT-X links on Eurobird, used also to feed Nauen if I recall correct. Be that as it may, it is indeed surprising that they are able to play out music fills but not to make do with call-up connections (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

The ``Bell circuit`` could well be on the satellites; however, since the repairs had to be made at Sackville, it could be just a distribution system inside the plant? (gh)

** CHINA. 3280, Voice of Pujiang, 1200-1217. Noted both a man and woman in Chinese comments this morning. Signal at 1207 is still very weak compared to reception on Feb 11 when it was fair around this time. The format of the program seems to be news with recorded segments here and there. Station's signal quality remained at threshold level with final evaluation at 1217 in Clewiston, Florida (Chuck Bolland, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** COLOMBIA. Feb 12, 0400-0500, 6140, Colombia. I'm hearing "R. Líder" which is probably being relayed (?) by R. Melodía, which is listed here. Compared an old ID tape from 2003 on the HCDX site and very similar- tones at ID, usage of "730 kilociclos" and definite "R. Líder" IDs after every song, which were soft Latin pops. Also mention of "estéreo". Do they have an FM outlet? Good signal, some splatter (John Cereghin, Smyrna, DE, FRG-7 with 175' longwire, HCDX via DXLD)

Hola Glenn, Saludos desde Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA. Reactivada el 12/02, a las 0211 UT, la antigua Melodía 730 AM, Bogotá, Colombia, en los 6139.73 kHz. Ahora se identifica como Radio Líder 730 AM, HJCU. Transmite el programa de peticiones musicales "Discoteca Automática". SINPO 33433. Con noticiero a las 0304. Sin embargo, la emisora aún se identifica como filial de la Cadena Melodía de Colombia. Programa "Cita Romántica" a las 0328. Escuchada promoción donde se citaba que las frecuencias de AM y FM del circuito tenían una potencia de 100 kW cada una! ¿No es un poco exagerada esa potencia en modulación de frecuencia? ¿Serán irradiados? Vale acotar que hace casi un año ya había comentado acerca de la supresión del nombre "Melodía", de la identificación de 730 AM. El cambio a la denominación "Líder" ahora me da la razón. 73s y buen DX (Adán González, Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

So that explains it. An effective radiated power of 100 kW on FM is standard in much of the US, so it's quite possible in Colombia (gh)

** COLOMBIA. Señal de 6010 kHz, La Voz de tu Conciencia, captada en los 5810.81 kHz, con señal muy débil, a las 0031 UT. 08/02. 73s y buen DX (Adán González, Catia La Mar, Estado Vargas, VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST) That 6010v/5910v leapfrog mixing product (gh)

Hola Glenn, Saludos desde Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA. Me ha llamado mucho la atención la extraña frecuencia de Marfil Estéreo (88.8 MHz). Que yo sepa, los canales de FM en Norteamérica y Suramérica no tienen esa secuencia. Debería ser 88.7 Ò 88.9 MHz. En París es donde he visto ese tipo de frecuencias y creo que en toda Europa es así, pero en América es diferente. ¿Podría alguien explicar eso? ¿Será que se está dando ese tipo de canales en Colombia? 73s y buen DX (Adán González, Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I think it's up to each country, not an hemispherical requirement, whether to authorize ``even`` frequencies. Checking the very incomplete FM section under COLOMBIA (just for Bogot.) in WRTH 2005 on page 173, I see some other even channels mentioned, altho most of them are ``odd``. Perhaps this is done on an ad-hoc basis to squeeze in more stations or reduce interference? (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CUBA. Seg'n informan en Radio Habana, est'n realizando emisiones de prueba hacia Espaða y Portugal por los 11800 desde las 2000 a 2300; estas pruebas que est'n relizando no son con la antena deseada, ya que la otra fue destruida por un hurac'n (Charlie). De todas maneras nos piden si podemos reportar desde la península alguna escucha por esta frecuencia. Adjunto mensaje del profesor Arnaldo Coco [sic]. (José Miguel Romero, Burjasot (Valencia), Espaða, Feb 11, Noticias DX via DXLD)

Saludos: Acabo de regresar de Alemania, donde asisti al evento transmediale 2005. Estamos transmitiendo ahora para Europa en pruebas, utilizando 11800 Khz desde las 20.00 a las 23.00. Trata de ver si copias algo, pues ya recibí el primer reporte de Espaða con un SINPO que termina en 3, lo que quiere decir que al menos se oye algo. La antena que estamos usando no es la que dirige emisiones al Mediterráneo, ya que la misma la destruyó el hurac'n que pasó por ac'en Agosto del 2004 y todavía no se ha podido reconstruir. Muchas gracias por tu atenta colaboraciún. Hasta pronto, Arnaldo (via José Miguel Romero, Noticias DX via DXLD)

[Later:] 11800, 11/2 R. Habana Cuba, 2201-2226, Noticiero internacional, ID "Esto [sic] es Radio Habana....", conversa telefúnica con Chvez, SINPO 44444 (Romero, ibid.)

El Profesor Arnaldo Coro, de R. Habana nos ha proporcionado unas frecuencias y unos horarios de prueba, con el fin de monitorizarla. Estas son las 11760, 11800 y 12000 en horarios de emision desde 2100-2300; estas emisiones las est'n realizando con la cortina pequeña que opera de 12 a 22 Mhz ya que la cortina grande, que opera desde 6 a 12 Mhz, Èsta averiada desde el pasado día 12 de Agosto, por causa del hurac'n Charlie (José Miguel Romero, Feb 12, radioescutas via DXLD)

So are they still using 13660 too for this transmission, with whatever antenna? See also MEXICO [non] (gh)

** DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Radio Amanecer, la nica onda corta activa en Rep'blica Dominicana, escuchada en los 6024.97 kHz, el 06/02, a las 1918 UT. Charla religiosa. SINPO 34433. ID: "Radio Amanecer, la voz de la esperanza (...)" (Ad'n Gonz'lez, Catia La Mar, Estado Vargas,

VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** EQUATORIAL GUINEA. Two new short wave China made transmitters 50 kW each have been installed recently. Radio Malabo and Radio Bata use the frequencies of 5005 and 6250 kHz respectively. In the interim, after a long absence, the religious Christian Radio Africa 2 has got on the air again and was received in Sofia at 12 hours on 15190 kHz announcing that it also uses the frequency of 7190 kHz (Rumen Pankov, R. Bulgaria DX program Feb 11, via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

** FINLAND. Please correct! The report about YLE in your Feb 10 issue seems to be based on press reports printed in June 2004. It is embarrassing that you distribute quotes from me and Mr Peltonen, without saying that you quote Finnish newspapers from June 2004. The reference to "matters to be taken up in the autumn" meant last autumn. No such decisions were taken. As for the future, YLE will be looking into the future options in due course. A considerable consumer campaign in favour of SW (in Finnish and Swedish for Finnish nationals abroad) has been underway all autumn and winter. On Tuesday the campaigners gave a memo signed by 15 thousand expat listeners to the chairman of the parliamentary controllers of YLE. Whatever happens, Mr Hauser, quotes from last June are outdated and should not be issued as fresh. Regards (Juhani Niinist^, YLE, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

It did look rather familiar, but since it was just posted Feb 9 at Media Network I assumed it was a new story; no date or direct link to newspaper Helsingin Sanomat was given. Presumably Andy Sennitt also thought it was a new story. Glad to hear of the campaign to save your SW (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Just to clarify, we ran the story on 9 February after seeing a link to the story on Google News. The same story was published on 10 February by BBC Monitoring, attributed to "Helsingin Sanomat web site, Helsinki, in English 10 Feb 05." So it was apparently online there for at least 24 hours. Occasionally, due to human error or software problems, old stories can get re-published. I have now removed the story from the Weblog (Andy Sennitt, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST) and added this one:

Mr Niinist^ provided us with this summary of the current situation:

Since June 2004 there has been public discussion about the future of international free-to-air radio in Finland. The major organization representing Finnish nationals abroad (Suomi-Seura, Finland Society) has underlined the view that reception of free-to-air radio from Finland is a "subjective" right of the expats. The organization, headed by former foreign minister and Labour Party chairman, Mr Pertti Paasio, has worked intensely on the matter. For example, they had some

30-thousand copies of a leaflet printed focusing on the cost to the consumer of a) SW b) mobile phone internet and c) satellite services.

Last week, Finland Society handed in a petition representing some 15 thousand Finnish expatriates, to the chairman of the Parliamentary controllers of YLE, MP Mika Lintila. In public, the issue has become mainly a discussion of the high cost to the consumer of the use of mobile internet. Commenting on the matter on air (YLE Radio News, in Finnish, Feb 8th, 1400 GMT) Mr Lintila said that mobile phone internet, in its present form, probably cannot replace radio via shortwave.

YLE has taken so far no decisions about the future of its SW. The current agreement concerning distribution with Digita/TDF runs out at the end of 2006. The popularity of Radio Finland amongst expats may be attributed to the fact that in the early 90 Radio Finland broke away from the traditional international broadcasting formats and introduced continuous all-day flows of programming. Live domestic and international sports is a key attraction.

Within YLE, the future of SW and MW is an issue at the corporate level, and not a matter handled within the external broadcasting branch only. As stated, no decisions have so far been taken.

In 2002 YLE closed all foreign language external services, except Russian and some small languages spoken in Russia. The closures did not arouse much protest, except to some extent from the German area. The reaction to the possibility of closing now Finnish and Swedish has been surprisingly vast and intense, and may be unique in recent expatriate media discussions, internationally. Radio Finland has *not* repeat *not* been involved in these campaigns.

posted by Andy @ 20:39 UT Feb 12 (Media Network blog via DXLD)

** GERMANY. So far my contacts couldn't find out more about the reported reduction in shortwave transmissions of Deutsche Welle. But now a new rumour from the DRM folks has been posted at <http://forum.myphorum.de/read.php?f=8773&i=166155&t=166155> :

Probably the DRM service on 3995 will be cancelled. Another source adds that this is indeed under consideration, despite this frequency again being coordinated at the current HFCC conference. Mind you, these folks don't care about AM at all, so we can only wonder what is under consideration here; the referenced report from Bob Padula had only transmissions to Asia and Australia as topic, but I think this doesn't mean that only these target areas will be affected!

In this thread you will find the tentative A05 DRM schedule for DW. The 200 kW Taldom on 7390 is a bit suspect to me; could it be that

this is supposed to be AM instead? Also posted there is a J,lich registration for BCE [LUXEMBOURG], i.e. a third DRM outlet for RTL besides the two Junglinster transmitters: 0600-1800 on 7145. Finally another posting contains a statement that Munich/Ismaning 6085 will be switched off in mid-March and return in DRM in April.

Meanwhile Berlin-Britz 855 was observed running DRM again. Probably now another transmitter than during 990's outage is in use again. You can hear ten seconds of 990 and then a switch to 855 on last Sundays morning at
http://www.radioeins.de/_/meta/sendungen/apparat/050205_a1.ram

855 has a delay of about three seconds and noticeably less punchy audio, also appearing to be of a narrower bandwidth (probably 4.5 kHz on 855 and 6 kHz on 990, but this is difficult to judge with so much noise).

As a comparison here is 855 as it sounded on New Years Eve:
http://www.radioeins.de/_/meta/sendungen/apparat/041218_a3.ram

I would say here the modulation sounds different, actually quite good, just rather soft because no any audio processing is in use (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GERMANY. A while ago I already wrote about the Reichenbach transmitter near G^rlitz (1188 kHz). Here is an update after visiting the site: The old pre-war station building still exists, and it appears that it housed the transmitter used until around 1999. The current transmitter sits in a container next to the antenna, and the installation is completed with a satellite dish on a concrete platform. No idea when time will permit to build a webpage about it; anyway these pictures are already online:

<http://www.reichenbach-ol.com/Geschichte-Reichenbach/Funkturm.jpg>
--- Station building and the original, meanwhile replaced tower

<http://www.schlesien-online.de/radio/Reichenbach.jpg> --- Artist's impression of the transmitter in the outskirts of the small town

http://www.st-johannes-reichenbach.de/richtung_goerlitz.jpg
--- A look from the church tower also portrayed in the drawing, with the current antenna in the left of the picture

As already noted Reichenbach was the G^rlitz relay of Breslau. Exact transmitter location is Roths_rben, today Zorawina (once 950 kHz, finally with 200 kW on 1206 kHz). Here are pictures of this site, one from 1932 (note the antenna, very similar to Reichenbach) and a current one: <http://hydral.com.pl/neo/2088,obiekt.html>

Originally a studio at G^rlitz belonged to the Reichenbach transmitter. From 1953 the Serbsk minority service was produced for some years there and carried via Reichenbach. Actually G^rlitz is outside the Serbsk area, the studio there was chosen simply because it already existed and was otherwise out of use since 1945. Finally the Serbsk service moved to Cottbus and the old G^rlitz studio finally went dark. Only the program feed to Reichenbach was always routed via G^rlitz, in detail from Dresden to G^rlitz and from there more or less back to Reichenbach.

Actual broadcasting from G^rlitz revived in 1993 with Radio Lausitz, a commercial station broadcasting via L^bau on 107.6 MHz. But meanwhile live radio from G^rlitz is in fact again a thing of the past: The continuation of Radio Lausitz, now called ~~YY~~Lausitz 107 Punkt 6~~YY~~, takes place at Dresden and most of the time Radio Lausitz is the very same than Radio Dresden (~~YY~~Dresden 103 Punkt 5~~YY~~). Today the G^rlitz studio does hardly more than feeding local news and reports to Dresden, now also for Hitradio RTL since SLP, the operator of the local stations, and Hitradio RTL recently merged into a new company called BCS --- website under construction at <http://www.broadcast-sachsen.de>

At <http://www.radiolausitz.net> under ~~YY~~mehr Studio~~YY~~ (link in the right of the page) you can take a look at the live studio (~~YY~~Sendestudio~~YY~~) now in practice out of use as such, the news booth (~~YY~~Nachrichtenstudio~~YY~~) and the editorial office (~~YY~~Redaktion~~YY~~). Nice rooms, although it apparently only works by ~~YY~~swallow this SM7~~YY~~ (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GREECE. Re Never on Sunday: Hellenic Ministry of Culture page about Melina Mercouri: <http://www.culture.gr/2/20/melina.html>
(John Babbis, MD, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

NEVER ON SUNDAY

Words and Music by Manos Hadjidakis
English lyric by Billy Towne

Oh, you can kiss me on a Monday,
A Monday, a Monday is very very good
Or you can kiss me on a Tuesday
A Tuesday, a Tuesday, in fact I wish you would
Or you can kiss me on a Wednesday,
A Thursday, a Friday, and Saturday is best,
But never ever on a Sunday
A Sunday, a Sunday 'cause that's my day of rest.

Refrain:

Most any day you can be my guest,
Any day you say but my day of rest;
Just name the day that you like the best,
Only stay away on my day of rest.
Oh, you can kiss me on a cool day,
A hot day, a wet day, which ever one you choose,
Or try to kiss me on a grey day,
A May day, a pay day and see if I refuse;
And if you make it on a bleak day,
A freak day, or a week day, well you can be my guest;
But never ever on a Sunday,
A Sunday, the one day I need a little rest.
Oh, you can kiss me on a week day,
A week day a week day the day to be my guest.
(via John Babbis, DXLD)

** INDIA. 15235, All India Radio-Bangalore "Super Power transmitters",
Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore 560-064, India, QSL letter full data
received in one month. First, I received an electronic QSL letter.
V/S: R. Narasimha Swamy, Superintending Engineer (Arnaldo Slaen,
Argentina, HCDX via DXLD)

** INDIA. Message from Sunil Bhatia, SMS Division, All India Radio.

Dear Mr. Mukesh, Hello and seasons greetings from AIR. It was really
wonderful to work with you in 2004; we received some valuable reports
from you on our services. I am sorry not to write you frequently,
However, we have tried to send QSL on your reports on certain
occasions. How are things going on there in election environment. Hope
you are fine and busy with your work.

May I request you to kindly send us reception reports / audio clips on
our Nepali service. The details are given below:

Time (IST)	Frequency(kHz)	
0700-0800	594, 3945, 7250, 9810, 11715	[0130-0230 UT]
1230-1330	7250, 9595, 11850	[0700-0800 UT]
1900-2000	1134, 3945, 4860, 11775	[1330-1430 UT]

It would be more useful if send your reports from ordinary receivers.
With best regards, Sunil Bhatia, SMS Division, All India Radio

(via Mukesh Kumar, THE COSMOS CLUB, MISCOT-3, R-8, RAMNA, MUZAFFARPUR
ñ 842002, BIHAR, INDIA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INDONESIA: ``Wasn't there a report a couple of years ago about
someone visiting the station and stating that the whole site was

buried in the jungle and the visitor estimated it the return to air to be very improbable?``

--- But which one? At Cimanggis some of the new 250 kW Marconi transmitters were installed in the nineties, so this observation must concern another site. Cimanggis is also noteworthy for two Funkwerk K[^]penick transmitters, the only shortwave broadcasting transmitters from this GDR company installed abroad I am aware of (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** INTERNATIONAL VACUUM. SIRIUS RECEPTION IN EUROPE**

There was an inquiry here a few days back about the possibility of receiving Sirius satellite programs in the UK. The unanimous opinion was that it would be impossible. Here is a contrary view. Sirius uses satellites operating in a Molynia type orbit. This orbit gets its name from the Molynia satellites operated by the USSR to bring TV to the hinterlands of Siberia. These orbits have a low perigee south of the equator and a high apogee over the northern latitudes. When the USSR was using this technique their broadcasts to Siberia were received in New York City at the Columbia University institute for Soviet studies or some such name. There the broadcasts were received, recorded and analyzed to gain clues about what was happening behind the old Iron Curtain. The antennas were aimed north from New York over the pole.

The Sirius satellites use the Molynia orbit to get higher look angles from the USA than are possible from satellites operating in geostationary orbits over the equator. The higher look angles reduce the need for terrestrial repeaters to fill in the shadows in large cities caused by tall buildings. The Sirius satellites have an apogee over Manitoba. It is quite conceivable that they could be seen from the northern latitudes of Europe and Asia. Of course Sirius uses some directional antenna patterns to enhance the ERP in the direction of North America. A receiver antenna on the ground would have to have some gain to make up for the off-pointing loss of the satellite pattern. That implies the receive antenna would be directional and might need to be steered depending on the amount of gain and the narrowness of the receive antenna pattern.

I doubt that an automobile-mounted antenna would work but given a hearty budget, Sirius reception in Europe might be possible. The need for a subscription would require a US address and credit card for monthly billing, but if this ever takes off, there would likely be several gray market entrepreneurs willing to make a buck by acting as your intermediary. 73, (Joe Buch, DE, Feb 11, Swprograms mailing list via DXLD)

**** IRAN non: ``11620, Voice of the Iranian Nation, 1430-1500 ... Ex**

15660 ... From where?`

--- Understood to be from Egypt, already for decades. I think in the mid-nineties there were some reports about some cooperation agreement, enabling the USA or more specifically the CIA to use the Abis site for such, uh, special broadcasts (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** KENYA. On 12 Feb (Saturday) at 1945 there is a station on 4915 in Swahili mixing with Ghana. I didn't get the 2000 TOH ID, but assume this is KBC Kenya now running the Swahili service and also on during the weekends. Maybe Chris can confirm this (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** KUWAIT. R. Farda on new 1575 kHz: I'm getting this now (8:51 pm local). Clearly // 9585. Still in 30 minutes later, but weaker (Pete Jernakoff, Wilmington, DE, 0151 UT Feb 12, NRC-AM via DXLD)

** LUXEMBOURG [non]. DRM: See GERMANY

** MEXICO [non?]. This Friday Feb 11 around 2130 I again looked for the alleged R. Insurgente clandestine on or around 6.0 MHz. Nothing. Did not check during the 2200 hour, but as one previous report suggested it might be a couple hours later, I again checked at 2314. By this time there was Spanish on 6000, but they were talking about RSF and Cuba, and \\ 11875, so presumably RHC's Mesa Redonda --- strangely, there was a slight delay (reverb) between the two. While I was at it I looked around for other Cuban frequencies and found: 9550 English; 11760 & 13680 RN Venezuela, the latter very undermodulated; 15230 & 17705 RHC Portuguese (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST) DRM:

** MOLDOVA [and non]. UNIDENTIFIED. TWR on 1566: See below: TWR in Romanian heard on Feb 9 at 1930 on 1566. A follow-up mentioned that the transmission was over at 2000. But from where?! (Kai Ludwig, DX LISTENING DIGEST) Viz.:

Hallo an alle, wieder ist 'ne DX-Frequenz futsch: 1566! Gestern lief hier noch AIR Nagpur mit 0=4. Und heute? Transworld Radio Romania mit S=9+20 um 19.30 UTC. Das war's dann wohl. und tsch,ss (Michael Schnitzer Homepage: <http://home.arcor.de/mschnitzer/> Location: Haflfurt Feb 9, A-DX via Ludwig, DXLD)

[Later:] Obviously 1467 at Grigoriopol has been replaced by 1566. Enclosed the decisive report I can only confirm: 1566 has a strong signal with presumed VOR in Bulgarian, and on 1467 Roumoules with Radio Vatican is in the clear now (switching antenna patterns between Hungarian and Czech at 1830, by the way). (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Hallo! V. of Russia kam um 1800 UT mit s/on und dem Bulgarischen-Programm auf 1566 kHz. K`nnnte das eventuell via MDA kommen? Auf der gelisteten Frequenz 1467 kHz ist nur Radio Vatican via Frankreich (// 1530 khz) zu h`ren. 73, (Patrick Robic, A-DX via Ludwig, DXLD)

On 12 Feb at 1804 noted powerhouse VOR in Bulgarian on 1566 instead of its normal 1467 Grigoriopol MDA. Continued at 1900 in Greek. A permanent move or just Saturday nite fever? (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** OKLAHOMA. Pirate FM in OKC --- Hello Glen[n], Here's a story from the Feb 9, 2005 edition of the OKC Gazette. Apparently a pirate low power FM station is broadcasting from the Paseo district of OKC on Thursday and Sunday nights on 93.9 MHz. The pirate callls itself Radio Free OKC and was launched on February 3rd. The DJ who calls himself "Amazing Mr. Please Please" will keep Thursday nights for rock and roll only and Sundays for jazz and hip hop. There will also be live bands, local artists, and guest DJ's on any of those nights. The frequency is assigned to a country music station in Watonga, OK that is owned by Orion Broadcasting in Austin, MN. No indication of power or coverage but I could not pick it up here in Del City, OK which is about 2 or 3 miles from the Paseo as the crow flies (Steve Cross, Del City, OK, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** OKLAHOMA. K202BY, Enid, Oklahoma, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

On January 19, 2005, Family Stations, Inc., filed an application for renewal of license K202BY serving Enid, OK. K02BY operates on Ch. 202 [88.3 MHz] and rebroadcasts the signal of KEAR(FM), Ch. 295, San Francisco, CA. The transmitter site for K202BY is located at Route 132, 3.4 km North of intersection with USH 60 (Route 15), 12 km WNW of Enid, OK. You are invited to advise the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC, 20554, of any facts relating to K202BY's application for renewal or whether the station has operated in the public interest (Legal Notice published in the Enid News & Eagle February 12, 2005, via DXLD) I assume the FCC is fine with stations promoting apocalyptic nonsense. This relay 88.3 is also unnecessary since WYFR can be heard here on multiple frequencies 24 hours (gh)

** PETER I. 3Y0X * UPDATE --- Three operators have dropped out of the expedition, and the current roster includes F2JD, HB9BXE, K0IR, K3NA, K4SV, K4UEE, K9SG, LA6VM, N2WB, N4GRN, N6OX, NP4IW, OH2BH, OH2PM, PA5M, UA3AB, VK4GL and W0RUN. They expected to be underway from Ushuaia, Argentina on 11 February. Another vessel (the "Cavendish Sea"), another helicopter and a very experienced pilot have been contracted, and the team should be able to hold to the most recently announced schedule. Depending on weather and sea conditions they

expect to be off Peter I about 17-18 February and to operate until 3 March. Bookmark <http://www.peterone.com> for updates (425 DX News Feb 12 via Dave Raycroft, ODXA via DXLD)

This DXpedition was originally timed for southern spring when weather conditions would have been most amenable; now fall is a-comin' on (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** POLAND. The DX Program of Radio Polonia ``Multimedia Show`` is now broadcast every Tuesday at 18.25 hours on 7220 and 7265 kHz and every Thursday at 13.25 hours on 9525 and 11850 kHz (Rumen Pankov, R. Bulgaria DX program Feb 11, via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

** PUERTO RICO. Radio Isla, captada en los 1320 kHz, a las 0722 UT, el 10/02. Locutor comentaba incidente del cantante venezolano, Oscar D'León, en Barranquilla. SINPO 33433 (Ad'n González, Catia La Mar, Estado Vargas, VENEZUELA, DX LISTENING DIGEST) WRTH 2005 has this as WSKN, Super Cadena de Noticias; name change? No, their affiliate in Ponce on 1490 is ``La Isla`` so just a slogan (gh, DXLD)

** ROMANIA. ~~YY~~Re Harris press release: One of the poorest European countries has now a potential of at least 8 powerful MW powerhouses, thanks to human race friend G. W. Bush administration~~YY~~

--- Yes, but as I already noted: At least in the case of T,nc,beshti it is notable that apparently this station has been downgraded from 1500 to 400 kW. I remember that in the past T,nc,beshti completely obliterated Berlin-Britz after dark here, but not so anymore. To me this appears to be a result of the circumstance that Harris' line of mediumwave transmitters ends with the DX-200. Combine two of them and you get 400 kW, and that's it (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SOMALIA. JOURNALIST AUTHORISED TO RETURN TO WORK

The head of security for Middle Shabelle region, who is also the brother of local chief Mohamed Omar Habeb, authorised journalist Abdiqani Sheik Mohamed to return to work on 3 February 2005, the local press freedom group Somali Journalists Network (SOJON) told Reporters sans frontières (RSF). The journalist, formerly of the privately-owned station Radio Banadir, had been living in internal exile in Mogadishu, in precarious circumstances, since a decree issued on 27 September 2004 banned him from "practicing his profession." (French version included) Further details: <http://www.pambazuka.org/index.php?id=26793> (Dr Hansjoerg Bierner, Germany, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SOMALIA [and non]. Obituary --- Kate Peyton, BBC producer devoted to Africa --- by Alan Little, Friday February 11, 2005, The Guardian

It is a cruel irony that Kate Peyton, who has died aged 39, after being shot while on assignment for the BBC in the Somali capital Mogadishu, should have fallen victim to the kind of random violence that she devoted her working life to chronicling. . .

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/obituaries/story/0,,1410327,00.html>

(via Dan Say, BC, DXLD) Touching

** TANZANIA. Radio Tanzania was heard at 15 hours in Swahili on 6105 kHz and can be heard often on 5050 kHz after 17 hours (Rumen Pankov, R. Bulgaria DX program Feb 11, via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

** THAILAND. 6765.1 kHz, Bangkok Radio, Volmet Broadcast, Telecommunication Division, Meteorological Department, 4353 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10260, Thailand, QSL folder full data and QSL letter full data. I sent a reception report of a broadcast for shipping by ordinary mail. Delay: 45 days V/S: Ms. Jantima Niyomchok (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina, HCDX via DXLD)

** U A E. Re 21605: Right, UAE is on 21605 // 13675 at that time [1430] and already 1300 and 12005 is empty. Either the replacement is canceled or it is only between 0600-0900 (or -1200). 73, (Mauno Ritola, Finland, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

And Feb 12 around 1500 I was getting some UAE-sounding audio on 21605, still very weak, but a bit stronger than Saudi on 21600. Strange how the relative strength of these two neighboring stations, in more ways than one, varies here (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K. NO COMEBACK FOR BLACKADDER, SAYS BBC

LONDON, Feb 10 (Reuters) - The BBC on Thursday poured cold water on hopes that Baldrick, one of Britain's best-loved comic characters, could make a comeback in a new series of the hit "Blackadder" comedy.

Talk of a return was triggered after Tony Robinson, who played the simple-minded half-wit in the four previous "Blackadder" runs, said he would like a new series to be set in the Swinging Sixties -- with Baldrick reincarnated as a drummer called Bald Rick.

The BBC said that while it had not talked to the cast about a possible new series, it was a case of "never say never."

Robinson fuelled speculation that a new series was on the drawing board when he said the show's star Rowan Atkinson was interested.

"Rowan is more keen than he has been in the past and I would love to do it," he told ITV's "This Morning." But the BBC said that there

were no plans for a comeback. "For our part, we're not aware of any plans to bring it back," a BBC spokeswoman said. "Never say never, but there's nothing on our books."

The cast, which included Rowan Atkinson, Miranda Richardson and Stephen Fry, could be reincarnated, Robinson said - with Atkinson as an illegitimate son of royalty.

The main characters were last seen in the final series in 1989, going "over the top" from their First World War trench. This moving finale was later voted the best farewell episode for a TV series and the series was recently voted Britain's best-loved sitcom behind "Only Fools and Horses." (RTw 02/10 1034 via Mike Cooper, DXLD)

** U S A. Allston-Brighton Free Radio is gone, as of Jan. 1st. ABFR was a community AM station on 1630 kHz. It was originally on 1670 kHz, but I noted it changed freq last July. I hadn't heard it around the December holidays, and became concerned. I found a connection to ABFR who said that the station was in financial problems, and the equipment was sold and the space gone. The station had started in 2000 (Paul McDonough, Natick, MA, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

ABFR actually goes back a little earlier than 2000, to about 1997; it was originally on FM (along with a slew of other pirates that popped up in the summer of 1997 in Boston) as Radio Free Allston and a round of busts by the FCC in about late 1997 brought an end to that. The operator, Steve Provizer, fancied himself as something of an east-coast Stephen Dunifer. It came back later as ABFR on AM. Boston has been a hotbed of unlicensed activity since that time, but ABFR is really the only one that pushed a truly community agenda. All others have been simply music or ethnic pirates (Damon Cassell, ibid.)

** U S A. WETA BOARD APPROVES SWITCH TO NEWS-TALK FORMAT

By Philip Kennicott Washington Post Staff Writer

Friday, February 11, 2005; Page C01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A15840-2005Feb10?language=printer>

WETA-FM listeners who had hoped to sway the public broadcasting station's board of directors from dropping classical music programs left WETA's Shirlington offices disappointed last night. By an overwhelming majority, the board approved a resolution to focus on news and public-affairs programming. A new lineup, with round-the-clock news, analysis and interview programs, will debut Feb. 28. Only the weekly broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera and "Traditions With Mary Cliff," a folk music program, will remain for music lovers.

"We're in the business of trying to create a larger audience and have

more people join our station," said Sharon Percy Rockefeller, WETA's president and CEO, after the vote. Rockefeller and other station leaders said they had anticipated disappointment from music lovers but that a single-format approach without music made sense for the radio station and would help it to better serve its mission and its audience.

A cartoon rabbit and the demise of Western civilization were the main subjects of the public-comment period before the board took its vote on WETA-FM programming. Gay viewers, angry that WETA-TV (Channel 26) declined to broadcast an episode of "Postcards From Buster," in which a popular cartoon figure visited two lesbian couples and their children in Vermont, expressed a sense of betrayal. And lovers of classical music, including prominent figures from the music community, cast the decision to drop music from WETA radio in broad cultural terms, as an assault on the last quiet, uncommercial realm for art on the airwaves.

Using words such as "dismayed," "abandoned" and "angered," the classical music public outweighed the handful of people who spoke out about the "Buster" decision. Both groups chastised the board for not taking into account, and respecting, minority cultural constituencies that look to public radio and television for programming and affirmation they can't find elsewhere. Of the 58 members of the public at the meeting, 25 addressed the board. Usually, only a couple of people attend the meetings, station leaders said.

Board Chairman John W. Hechinger Jr. said the time spent discussing the new radio format didn't allow time for discussion of the refusal to air the "Buster" episode. Rockefeller said WETA felt "absolutely no government pressure" to suppress the episode, which had been criticized as unfit for children by Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

WETA-FM management, including new Program Director Maxie C Jackson III, said WETA is still committed to diverse and representative programming and that the new radio format would allow WETA to develop programming for "underserved" communities, including African Americans.

WETA Vice President Dan DeVany said that although the initial lineup would use "a lot of acquired" programming from NPR and the BBC, the station intends to produce its own material, possibly including a cultural program that would give some coverage to the Washington arts scene.

Among those hoping that WETA would keep at least some of its classical music programming was Ulrich Bader, director of artistic programming

for the National Symphony Orchestra. Bader brought an e-mail petition signed by more than 740 musicians and music lovers, including composer John Adams and prominent flutist James Galway. Bader was joined by music educators who spoke of the difficulty of introducing children to classical music when it's becoming harder to find top-quality and free radio programming. (The remaining Washington area classical station on the dial, WGMS-FM, airs commercials.) Fans and longtime members of the station argued that all signs in Washington, including the opening of the Strathmore Hall music center in Montgomery County, point to an increased interest in classical music.

WETA-FM currently airs 15 hours of classical music on a typical weekday and carries the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts and "Traditions" on weekends. In recent years, WETA has moved incrementally toward less music. The addition in 1999 of "Morning Edition," which is also carried on WAMU, beefed up its news programming but sparked protests from music lovers. A WETA spokeswoman said the station temporarily lost members after that decision but ultimately it built listenership.

Nonetheless, in 2004 the station's audience sank to its lowest point since 1991, and is ranked 18th in metropolitan Washington, according to a spokesman.

But for musicians such as William Wielgus, an oboist with the NSO, it's not about numbers, but principle. Rather than give up on music, he argued, the station should make a concerted effort to preserve it and educate new listeners.

"Instead of trying to do less," Wielgus said, "I encourage you to actively try to do more." (c) 2005 The Washington Post Company (via Mike Cooper, DXLD)

``We're Emitting Talk Always`` (Brock Whaley, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. Cash problems for NPR/PBS stations? An Associated Press story this afternoon listed 99 federal programs President Bush's recently submitted budget would eliminate. One of the listed programs is the "Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction Program". It is my understanding this program is the source of much of the funding for hardware at public radio and TV stations. (as opposed to programming which is generally paid for by listener/viewer contributions) ñ (Doug Smith W9WI Pleasant View (Nashville), TN EM66 Feb 12, WTFDA via DXLD)

And some of you had bad things to say about the [acting] President. Sounds like this will stop IBOC on NPR stations (Rich Shafan, NJ [from the far right], ibid.)

** U S A. WHAS (Estados Unidos), con se0al muy fuerte en los 840 kHz, a las 0741 UT, con SINPO 43333 (Ad·n Gonz·lez, Catia La Mar, Estado Vargas, VENEZUELA, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. Est· transmitiendo la nueva "Mega 94.9" de la cadena Clear Channel con su slogan "Latino & Proud" con programaci0n m'sica Reggaeton y latino Hip-hop de moda en estos d'as. As' los oyentes del Rock del Sur de la Florida pierden su canal musical 94.9 Zeta (Dino Bloise, Hollywood, FL, Feb 11, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

A close radio friend of mine in Miami just lost his part time job this AM working at Album Rocker Zeta 4 FM when they began simulcasting 940 AM WINZ in preparation of flipping to Spanish programming on the FM (Ron Gitschier, Palm Coast, FL, Feb 11, NRC-AM via DXLD)

** U S A. 780, FLORIDA, Florida State Fair TIS, Tampa (at US-301 and I-4) indeed again active, listening to right now at 1625Z+ Feb. 12, barely audible here in Clearwater (should remain active through Feb. 21). "Welcome to the FL State Fair..." by M. Big slop from 760, but as always gets out well (Terry L Krueger, Clearwater, Florida USA, 27.55.83 N, 82.46.08 W Visit my "Florida Low Power Radio Stations" at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~tocobagadx/flortis.html> DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. First time I've ever allowed myself to be quoted regarding pirates (CBS TV network recently tried, as did the Miami Herald and a local Miami TV station)... nothing new here, but at least he didn't distort the facts or spell my name wrong... (Terry Krueger, FL)

LAWS FAIL TO SQUELCH PIRATE RADIO STATIONS --- By BRAD SMITH

ST. PETERSBURG - After a rap show by Snoop Dogg at Jannus Landing last week, fliers papered cars parked nearby, announcing an upstart radio station. ``There is a new pirate in downtown St. Petersburg,' ' boasted Pirate Radio Network, an unlicensed outlet at 97.5 FM.

Some of the metal and alternative music played during one recent stretch included a lounge cover of Rage Against the Machine's ``Guerrilla Radio' ' and a track from a recent Linkin Park/Jay-Z mix compact disc.

The fuzzy stereo signal doesn't reach much beyond Fourth Street, a few blocks north of downtown. No matter. The low-power station is the latest to join Florida's underground radio ranks, part of a renegade international movement that dates back decades.

``Radio is so polluted with crap. We're just putting this out for people to listen,' ' the station's disc jockey said Thursday. He

identified himself only as ``Bob Noxious'' because he faces felony charges if caught.

He's also a 35-year-old musician and veteran of a Tampa pirate station shut down several years ago by government agents, he said. ``I'd be foolish not to be somewhat afraid,'' he said. ``Everyone I know who's done this has been raided. I fully anticipate someone to come knocking sooner or later.''

Florida passed an antipiracy law, effective seven months ago, making it a felony to start a radio station without a license. The law, pushed by the commercial broadcast industry, lets local law enforcement shut down pirate stations, something previously controlled by federal agents.

In the United States, at least, illegal micropower stations are the bane of the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the airwaves. The FCC is under pressure by some in Congress, however, to loosen its rules and let more small-timers on the air in cities - beyond the roughly 600 in rural areas legalized since 2000.

``Low-power FM truly represents a unique opportunity to give new voice to old communities and to new communities as well,'' departing FCC Chairman Michael Powell said Tuesday at a Washington forum on low-power radio.

The problem, according to the FCC and commercial broadcasters, is that pirate radio can jam licensed stations on the same frequencies and jeopardize public safety.

Others such as Hannah Sassaman, of Prometheus Radio Project, point out that the airwaves belong to all and that many low-power outlets provide valuable service. ``It's about diversity and choice and local information,'' said Sassaman, whose nonprofit group advises licensed micropower stations but does not endorse pirates.

``What we're talking about are commercial broadcasters who have a lot of money to make by selling your ears to their advertisers and protecting their ability to do so,'' Sassaman said.

Where They Are

Low-power FM is illegal in urban areas for anything but noncommercial educational purposes. Still, the Tampa Bay area is peppered with them. They come and go, subject to the whims of discreet operators who don't wish to attract a government raid. Some emanate from college campuses; others broadcast from back yards. It typically costs from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand to buy a transmitter and put up an

antenna.

Terry Krueger, of Clearwater, who runs a Web site that catalogs active and inactive low-power stations in Florida, said there are dozens of private radio operators sending signals into the Sunshine State's ozone. Most are on the air weekends only.

One station - 96.3 FM in St. Petersburg, new a year ago - plays nonstop Jamaican dance hall songs and long blocks of ska and reggae with no live announcements. Another station calls itself ``Flavor FM 96.7,'' playing nonstop old-school soul music with ``clean version'' hip hop.

In Tampa, things are quieter these days. Krueger said only one station is active, 103.9 FM, playing Haitian Creole tunes.

``Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties are huge hotbeds of pirate activity,'' Krueger said. ``I would conservatively say there are 50 active at any given time down there. The majority of active stations these days are serving an ethnic niche: the Haitian community, Caribbean expatriates, Hebrews, Hispanic.''

The Bay area has its share of legal small-timers. They include a weak signal sent only during the two-week Florida State Fair, which began Thursday.

One FCC-approved station, at 1620 AM, is WKQV Riverside Community Radio, which operates on solar power and broadcasts Spanish music and news, Krueger said. Others operate in Dade City, Brooksville, Inverness and Homosassa.

Sassaman said some low-power stations, such as WJTW- FM in Jupiter, provided helpful information during last year's four hurricanes.

Change On Horizon?

Small stations are gaining some powerful advocates, including U.S. Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who are pushing to legalize amateur operations able to reach listeners as far as 3.5 miles away.

``While it may be too late to turn back the clock on the radio consolidation that has occurred, low-power FM may be one means of providing the public with a locally oriented alternative to huge national radio networks,'' McCain said in introducing legislation last year.

McCain's bill would repeal a 2000 law that created hundreds of low-

power stations in rural areas and small towns; it would allow similar stations of no more than 100 watts to reach listeners in cities dominated by powerful broadcasters.

Until then, anyone running a pirate radio station runs the risk of a raid. In 1997, government agents raided what then was Tampa's best-known pirate station, 102.1 FM, The Party Pirate, operated by L. Doug Brewer, a Tampa electronics dealer. He was fined \$22,000 but never paid, he said Thursday.

Brewer remains something of a local legend. He still sells equipment to would-be pirates, but he pooh-poohs the chances of low-power stations gaining permits in cities. ``It's not going to happen,' he said. ``The FCC just caters to the corporate interests. Yeah, you can get a 10-watt or a 100-watt license in Podunk, but not in any major city or even close.''

This story can be found at: <http://tampatrib.com/News/MGBH9PKY15E.html> (via Terry L Krueger, Clearwater, Florida, USA, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. LPFM Database --- Do you know by state the LPFM "Grant Ratios" and "Processing Completed" status? If not, you will enjoy this: <http://www.recnet.com/cdbs/scoreboard.php>

Do you know the potential population reached by each LPFM station? Here are the answers from RecNet:

New LPFM Population Study Released. Stations in Oxnard CA, Richmond VA and Baton Rouge LA lead the list

REC Networks has released a new study that shows the population that is in the primary service area and the fringe areas of all LPFM authorized stations and pending applications.

This report replaces a similar report published a couple of years ago. One of the primary differences between this report and the previous one is that this report uses Census Block methodology that gives resolution down to very small areas to give the most accurate result.

The Top 10 LPFM stations with a call-sign assigned are:

1. KOCC-LP Oxnard, CA (Calvary Chapel of Oxnard)
2. WRIR-LP Richmond, VA (Virginia Center for the Public Press)
3. WTQT-LP Baton Rouge, LA (Louisiana Community Development)
4. KDEE-LP Sacramento, CA (Ca. Black Chamber of Commerce)
5. WUPC-LP Arrowhead Village, NJ (Radio Alerta)
6. WXNM-LP Erie, PA (Erie Christian Broadcasting)
7. WXYR-LP Columbia, SC (Gamecock Alumni Broadcasters)

8. WXBQ-LP Moorhead, MN (Women's Care Clinic)
9. WTPB-LP Rockford, IL (Third Presbyterian Church)
10. KXZY-LP Waco, TX (Primera Asamblea de Dios)

Of the applications that have not yet been approved, whomever prevails from the controversial Providence, RI MX [mutually exclusive] group will take the number one position where the station(s) that are approved will serve over a quarter of a million persons.

A complete copy of the report is now available at:
<http://www.recnet.com/lpfminfo/lpfmpopulation.pdf> (John O. Broomall, GA, Christian Community Broadcasters, Feb 11, WTFDA via DXLD)

** U S A. Bitter feelings over demise of KFGQ-1260 --- There's an interesting viewpoint being made public by the former general manager of religious broadcaster KFGQ-1260 in Boone, Iowa. This station has just recently changed its calls and, it would seem, its approach to serving the local public. Check it out at <http://www.kfgq.org> (Rick Dau, Omaha, Nebraska, NRC-AM via DXLD) Christians vs Christians!!!

** U S A. FCC REJECTS TV STATIONS DIGITAL CABLE CARRIAGE
Thu Feb 10, 2005 11:25 AM ET News via Reuters News: By Jeremy Pelofsky
<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=industryNews&storyID=7596009>

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. regulators on Thursday dealt a blow to television broadcasters by rejecting requests that cable operators be required to carry more than one of the stations' primary channels.

The Federal Communications Commission voted 4-1 to turn down requests by broadcasters like Paxson Communications Corp. that cable systems like Comcast Corp. be required to carry all the digital channels offered by each local television station.

The agency was unanimous in also refusing to force cable operators to carry more than one primary signal from a broadcaster during the digital transition, which could last several years. Stations had wanted dual carriage of both existing analog and new digital signals during the move.

As broadcasters move to digital, the efficiencies of the new, higher quality signals give the stations additional airwaves, which they can use to offer up to six channels, known as multicasting.

"I am forced to conclude that we lack the authority to mandate either dual carriage or multicast carriage," said FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy.

The FCC in 2001 rejected mandatory carriage of both analog and digital

as well as the extra digital channels. Since then broadcasters and cable companies have tried to negotiate deals to have the extra stations carried, but with mixed success. Paxson and other broadcasters had asked the FCC to reconsider those decisions.

The National Association of Broadcasters has warned that it would challenge FCC rejection in court. The group has also said its member stations may try to use the airwaves for alternative uses, like telephone service.

Cable operators counter that the two sides should be able to negotiate agreements to carry stations that offer extra compelling programming. They have pointed to a recent pact to carry up to four digital channels offered by each public television station (via Harry Smith, DXLD)

This decision is disappointing. On one hand the FCC requires stations to spend millions of dollars (some have had to built new towers) to transmit in digital and then on the other hand doesn't put any obligation on cable operators to carry all of the digital services. This will discourage stations from fully utilizing multicast services and limit the offerings available to viewers--including non-cable subscribers. Some CATV stations carry some pretty marginal programming, but some of that makes them money. Airing multicast signals does not make them money. Some cable systems do act in the public interest and do a great job (Sunflower Broadband in Lawrence, Kansas is an example), but others do not. Carriage of some PBS stations with good audiences have been dropped on some CATV systems to make room for less popular services which they have ownership (Dave Pomeroy, Topeka, Kansas, WTFDA via DXLD)

Smart station owners will arrange (pay, say) for carriage of their multicast channels. In the Chicago area, ABC News Now was carried on Comcast (and likely will be again), and NBC's new WeatherCast (or whatever it's called) is also on cable. Digital tier in both cases, but it's there, and more people can see it there than on the DTV subchannels it's carried in. That said, cable operators would howl if they were forced to carry either for free, to say nothing of the five subchannels carried on the local Pax DTV station (the local analog Pax signal, two Pax feeds from different time zones, and three more channels of mostly religious programming). (Tim Cronin, Worth, IL, *ibid.*)

If other program suppliers (ESPN, CNN, etc.) paid cable operators to carry their programming I could better understand TV stations paying CATV systems for cable distribution. Or, if cable operators did not charge for their service I could understand stations and other program suppliers paying for distribution. But cable operators who want

stations to pay them for distribution also get paid at the other end. And, they shouldn't forget that they came into existence because they had TV station programming to provide to subscribers. They could not have gotten started without the TV station programming. I do agree that some station programming is not that great and appeals to a very limited audience. But then, that is exactly what some cable channels do and there is nothing wrong with serving small groups (Dave Pomeroy, KS, *ibid.*)

The other side of that discussion. In the past, analog stations have built huge towers and cleverly selected their tower site plus power plus fill-in patterns to reach the maximum number of homes because advertising depends upon max home reach. That is the basis of our commercial broadcasting system and it has little changed from the 1920s. But now we have digital and something more than half of the stations now functional in digital are running very modest power and antenna heights. Cable systems in their immediate area link directly from the station's programming panel to their headend using fiber or microwave while cable systems further out often depend upon the DirecTV or Echostar satellite links for feeds.

It is possible - even doubtful - that many of the stations now running reduced power and antenna height will EVER resume tall tower/high power digital since they reach 65% and upwards of their audience via cable and another 12-20% via satellite. And they can do this with much less money invested in tower and power plant because cable is filling in coverage that would only be duplicated with tall tower/high power. Why spend money to reach the same folks/homes twice?

That suggests to me that modern cable is doing more than "filling in" holes in coverage - it is providing coverage, at reduced cost, for the stations involved. Decades ago analog stations were given the opportunity to use UHF translators (later VHF translators) to fill in "behind hills" WITHIN their Grade B contours. Almost none took advantage of this opportunity although for advertising purposes they continued to "claim" the homes behind the hills as part of their audience. Yes, cable collects money but in today's climate is that unreasonable given the benefits that cable CAN (although it does not always) provide to stations saddled with spiraling operating and capital costs? I think this is a two-way street (Bob Cooper in New Zealand, *ibid.*)

** U S A. DTV CHANNEL ELECTIONS --- Today was the deadline for TV stations to make a choice in the first round of DTV channel elections. Unfortunately I've been unable to find a database listing the choices made, which will make it impossible to accumulate a comprehensive list. However, if you're curious about a specific station, try:

- Go to http://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/prod/cdbbs/pubacc/prod/app_sear.htm
- In the Call Sign box, enter the calls of the desired station. [note 0 below]
- In the first File Number box, enter BFRECT.[note 1 below]
- Leave the second File Number box - and all other boxes - empty.
- Click "Submit Application Search", or hit Enter.
- On the resulting screen, click on "Application".

You get the actual FCC Form 382, "DIGITAL CHANNEL ELECTION FORM FIRST ROUND ELECTION", submitted by the station. (usually electronically)

Scroll down to Section II. There are three possible selections:

"a. Licensee/permittee makes the following channel election from its currently assigned (DTV or NTSC) channels"

Most stations will have chosen this box. They must then enter either their second digital or their first analog channel in this box.

"b. Licensee/permittee has entered into a Negotiated Channel Election Arrangement and, accordingly, makes the following channel election, subject to Commission approval:"

Stations making this choice have negotiated an agreement with another station to use one of their two channels. They must enter both the channel they prefer to use, *and* an alternate channel in case the FCC does not approve their negotiated arrangement. The alternate channel must be either their existing analog assignment or their existing digital assignment.

"c. Licensee/permittee makes no channel election; accordingly, licensee/permittee elects to participate in the second round of elections. This option may be selected only by licensees/permittees with only one in-core channel or with two low VHF channels (2-6)."

Of course, stations making this choice don't enter any channels yet.

The vast majority of stations are choosing option A.

Two good examples of stations choosing option B are WBBM-DT and WTTW-DT in Chicago. WBBM is analog channel 2 and DTV channel 3; WTTW is analog 11 and DTV 47. The two stations have negotiated an agreement under which WBBM-DT will operate on channel 11 and WTTW-DT will stay on channel 47. If this agreement is disapproved by the FCC, WBBM's second choice is DTV channel 3, while WTTW will move their DTV

operation to channel 11. (I believe WBBM would still have the option to jump into the second or third round and select a channel dropped by some other station.)

So far the only station I've seen use option C is WCBS-DT New York City. Their analog channel is 2 and their digital 56, which is outside core. WCBS finds neither channel acceptable for permanent use.

Channel elections in the Nashville market FWIW:

Station	Analog	Current DTV	Elected DTV
WKRN	2	27	27
WSMV	4	10	10
WTVF	5	56	5*
WNPT	8	46	8
WZTV	17	15	15
WNPX	28	36	36
WUXP	30	21	21
WHTN	39	38	39
WPGD	50	51	51
WNAB	58	23	23#
WJFB	66	44	44#

* Cannot keep current DTV channel as it's outside core.

Cannot keep current analog channel as it's outside core.

--

[0] It's probably best to type a % at the end of the calls: that way if the -TV suffix is an official part of the calls, the station will still be found. (if you just type "WSMV" nothing will be found, because the official calls are WSMV-TV)

[1] If it's a non-commercial station, enter BFREET.

(Doug Smith W9WI, Pleasant View (Nashville), TN EM66,
<http://www.w9wi.com> Feb 12, WTFDA via DXLD)

** U S A. February 10, 2005

BROADCAST STATION TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-256657A1.txt

The Commission has announced the following totals for broadcast stations licensed as of December 31, 2004:

AM STATIONS	4,774
FM COMMERCIAL	6,218
FM EDUCATIONAL	2,533
TOTAL	13,525

UHF COMMERCIAL TV 777
VHF COMMERCIAL TV 589
UHF EDUCATIONAL TV 257
VHF EDUCATIONAL TV 125
TOTAL 1,748

CLASS A UHF STATIONS 493
CLASS A VHF STATIONS 110
TOTAL 603

FM TRANSLATORS & BOOSTERS 3,890
UHF TRANSLATORS 2,631
VHF TRANSLATORS 1,823
TOTAL 8,344

UHF LOW POWER TV 1,553
VHF LOW POWER TV 481
TOTAL 2,034

TOTAL BROADCAST STATIONS 26,254

NEWS News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 TTY 202 / 418-2555 Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830 Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> [ftp. fcc.gov](ftp://www.fcc.gov)
Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S. W., Washington, D.C. 20554. This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D. C. Circ 1974). - FCC - (via Jim Moats, DXLD) Why do these FCC text documents always come with double spaces between every word? (gh, DXLD)

** U S A. SIGNIFICANTLY VIEWED TV STATIONS (per the FCC)
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-24A1.pdf

(It's a HUGE download. Files like this are why I have broadband and 512K of RAM.) Very interesting reading about what the FCC is now regarding as "significantly viewed" stations. They seem to use 1972 as a baseline; viewing habits in many counties have changed a LOT in 33 years! Of course, this was issued as a PDF document in text format, rather than as a spreadsheet. That would have been far too efficient. (David Austin, Columbia SC, WTFDA via DXLD)

That's certainly an *interesting* document... "We are confident that the SV List appended to this Notice has a high degree of accuracy..."

Well, they got off on the wrong foot by misspelling my county as "Cheatam" |grin|... But it gets worse in a hurry. A quick perusal finds:

WPWR-50 listed as Chicago, not Gary IN. XETV-6 and XEWT-12 are both listed as San Diego stations - I suppose most San Diegans believe that but it's not officially true. Minor point.

KLGT-23 listed in Minneapolis. Station has been KMWB for several years. Again, not a huge deal.

Satellite systems are going to have an awfully hard time carrying CBLT-6 (listed as significantly viewed in Niagara Co., New York) and KFIZ-34. (listed for Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties in Wisconsin)

(the former station has been on channel *5* since at least the early 1970s, and the latter has been dark for just as long...)

I'm sure there are more errors. Like WJJY-14 Jacksonville, Illinois, listed for two counties in the Hannibal, Missouri area - and dark for decades.

There also seem to be an awful lot of stations missing. For example, the only stations on the "SV" list for Davidson County, Tennessee are WKRN-2, WSMV-4, WTVF-5, and WUXP-30. Surely Fox affiliate WZTV-17 is significantly viewed? (probably WNAB-58 too) Obviously non-commercial stations aren't listed. Apparently *any* station that came on after the original 1972 list isn't listed unless they specifically asked the FCC to list them?

Of course, this was issued as a PDF document in text format, rather than as a spreadsheet. That would have been far too efficient. I have my suspicions the "SV List" existed only on paper. -- (Doug Smith W9WI, Pleasant View (Nashville), TN EM66, <http://www.w9wi.com> WTFDA via DXLD)

How about their listings for Lincoln, Linn, Marion, and Polk counties, Oregon, which list KOAB Bend, OR (even though my home county of Deschutes evidently doesn't watch it :-)).

Bit of history on this one... the Commercial allotment for channel 3 in Salem, OR was moved over here and switched to Non-Commercial in 1977 or 78 (Frank in Boise would know this, as I think he lived here then or shortly after - Frank?). [MORE on KVDO below]

But it's laughable that they are still listing KVDO as significantly viewed. Even in the early 70s they were only on the air part of the day, and as I recall had wrestling, re-runs of shows nobody ever watched first run, and the like. They were more like the old WBTB-68 Newark, for those who remember its pre "Wometco Home Theater" days.

On the positive side, they do note KTVZ-21 here. However, KOIN, KATU, KVAL, KEZI, and others are significantly watched here via translator and on cable. I mean, they're the only way we GET CBS and ABC, and we DO watch those out here in the boonies :-).

On a side note - one of the things that is interesting about this list is that it explains some TV Guide distribution weirdnesses here in Oregon (and I'd presume in other states). For example, Grant County shows significant viewership of 2 Boise stations - that's it - and they do still get the Idaho TV Guide there, even though the primary cable coverage is Portland on most systems, as are most of the translators (though some of the smaller towns carry the Denver ABC/CBS/NBC/PBS group...) (Dave Williams, Redmond, OR (near Bend, OR), 44:15:24N 121:11:47W, *ibid.*)

I checked the same thing. For example, Buchanan County VA gets the West Virginia TVG (or they did when I was through Grundy several years ago), which is not a total waste considering that they get Beckley/Bluefield stations even though they are in the Bristol/ Kingsport/ Johnson City DMA, but is still rather odd. But according to this old SV list, it makes perfect sense. (For those unfamiliar with the area, Buchanan is the "point on top of the panhandle" that juts between WV and KY. It's extremely hilly terrain.)

This SV list may actually turn out to be a **good** thing in that it will make DBS **more** appealing to customers if the DBS people are forced to carry these stations in addition to the present in-market (DMA) offerings. It would, however, create a few incongruities. WIS-10 Columbia would not have to be imported into Myrtle Beach, but WECT-6 Wilmington (as well as WWAY-3 and WCSC-5 Charleston) would be. (The latter three can easily be received OTA, but not WIS.) WIS is viewed throughout South Carolina with the exception of the far edges around Greenville and Charleston; if it can't get there OTA, it gets cabled in (David Austin, *ibid.*)

I'd have to re-read it to be certain but I don't think there's any **requirement** to carry these stations on DBS. Rather, the presence of a station in a different DMA on the SV List means that the DBS company **may** choose to deliver that station. I mean, for example, Cheatham County is in the Nashville DMA, so ordinarily the only ABC affiliate DBS is allowed to authorize on my box is WKRN-2. But if WBKO-13 - located in the separate Bowling Green DMA - was listed as "significantly viewed" in Cheatham Co., then DBS would be allowed to authorize both WKRN and WBKO. They would not be **required** to authorize WBKO. ñ (Doug Smith W9WI, Pleasant View (Nashville), TN, *ibid.*)

How about the converse? If the only significantly viewed station in my

county is KTVZ, if I have satellite can they legally turn on all of the out-of-market network stations for me? (Dave Williams, Redmond, OR (near Bend, OR), *ibid.*)

While this new aspect of DBS (direct broadcast satellite) is being discussed, some cable operators in the Shreveport-Texarkana DMA are dropping NBC affiliate KTAL-6 Texarkana. That is being used as selling point by Dish Network and Direct TV (Danny Oglethorpe, Shreveport, LA, *ibid.*)

You may qualify for NY and LA network stations but your "legally" designated local stations have to grant permission first. The KVDO story is very interesting, I will send an email on it. 73 (Frank Aden, N7SOK, Boise ID, *ibid.*)

Our cable company here in Joplin dropped ABC KODE CH 12, and NBC KSNF CH 16 on Jan 1. They wanted too much money and the cable company refused to pay it. The cable company is now offering a A B switch and simple antenna free to all customers. Other local stations CBS KOAM CH 7 and FOX KFJX CH 14 are still on cable, likewise KOZJ PBS CH 26 (John Tudenham, Joplin MO, *ibid.*)

What kind of reaction is the cable system and the TV stations receiving? Any articles in the paper? The TV stations only want 25 cents per subscriber to carry the signals. That's pretty small compared to what the CATVs are paying for things like ESPN, etc. It cost a lot for TV stations to transmit a signal. Why shouldn't stations be compensated for the programs they broadcast and the cable systems sell to subscribers? (Dave Pomeroy, Topeka, Kansas, *ibid.*)

That's true, but depends how you look at it. Should be the other way around, the cable companies are doing a favor for the TV stations to carry them. Why should the cable customer have to pay to receive a station you can get without cable? I can get ch 12 and 16 without an antenna, less than 3 miles from me. Wish they weren't that strong here hard to DX when pointed their way. By the way this has made viewers mad at both the stations and cable company (John Tudenham, *ibid.*)

I'm beginning to wonder whether this report is really worth anything at all -- with all of the silent stations, changed stations, mixed-up markets, etc., all suggest that it's either very flawed or seriously outdated or both. Which would be perfectly consistent with a lot of other FCC 'data'. ===== (Russ Edmunds, PA, *ibid.*)

There are some weirdnesses here. (Not a surprise.) The New York section includes a list of individual communities after the county-by-county listings - and "Rochester" apparently has significantly-viewed status for WCBS, WNBC, WNYW, WABC, WWOR and WPIX. Who knew? :-)

And in PA and NJ, wherever Philly-market stations are significantly viewed, the listing includes "WKBS-TV, Channel 48, Altoona."

I have no doubt that the old WKBS-TV 48 Burlington NJ was significantly viewed, back in the day. I have even less doubt that the new WGTW 48 Burlington NJ is barely viewed, if ever. I have still less doubt that nobody in Philly is watching the new WKBS 47 Altoona, except maybe on a really unusual trop opening! S (Scott Fybush, Rochester, *ibid.*)

Just out of curiosity: does anyone know of a circumstance where a desired local station (i.e., one that the cable company wants to carry, not one that they "must" carry whether they want to or not) has stayed off a cable system for a long period of time due to a compensation dispute?

I know you have this brinksmanship where a station gets yanked off (WJLA-7 Washington and Fairfax County cable immediately come to mind), people get cheated off at the cable company, the station and the cable company "work something out", and the station gets put back on.

Your average viewer does not want to have to fool with A/B switches, outdoor antennas, rabbit ears, and so on. They just want to be able to watch everything they think they should be getting locally (the major networks and what few popular independents still exist, e.g., KTVK-3 and KCOP-13) and get it all crystal-clear with no effort on their part. After all, in their minds that's what they're paying for. That's why local-into-local DBS has caught on. It's counter-intuitive to use up transponder space to beam a signal back down to a dish when the subscriber lives 10 miles from the transmitter, but again, people expect effortless reception of everything they want to watch, and this does the trick. When I used to sell Primestar, the first question you'd get was always "can I get the locals?" (David Austin, Columbia SC, *ibid.*)

Maybe not exactly the circumstances you're talking about, but... There was an instance a few years ago here in central/southern DE where Comcast and one or two of the Baltimore stations couldn't come to an agreement - they had been on our system for as long as I have been in DE (20 years now), and now we get NO Baltimore stations (Dave Braun, Wyoming, DE, *ibid.*)

Depends what counts as "long," I suppose. The longest cases I can think of have lasted in the range of months (single-digits), and they all seem to get resolved eventually. Usually both the cable company and the local station end up looking worse at the end than they did at the beginning. Nobody's ever sympathetic to the cable company, of

course (and I say this as a former employee of a cable company, with absolutely no sympathy to that former employer), but you don't see a lot of sympathy for your average Nextel-owned, HDTV-shunning, cheap-as-can-be network affiliate lately, either. Not to mention which, it's a killer to your ratings if cable penetration's 65% in your market (a fairly typical number) and you're not on the cable system. So there's an incentive for both sides to cooperate, especially if the local station's on DBS.

It's easy if you live where David does, within sight of all the Columbia towers, or where I do, within spitting distance of all my locals. If one of them went off cable, all I'd need would be a toothpick to get it. (And yes, I'm aware that your average toothpick is a stunningly lousy antenna.)

Where it gets more interesting - and where I think the FCC's going with this whole "significantly-viewed" mess - is if I want to watch something on the WB, which has no local OTA affiliate in Rochester. It's on Time Warner, on a "local" channel called "WRWB, WB16," which obviously isn't going to get carriage on DirecTV or Dish. Or if I'm in Elmira and I want to watch CBS, which has no local affiliate in Elmira, but which serves the Elmira market via WBNG 12 from Binghamton (and has done so for years.)

If WBNG's considered significantly-viewed in Chemung County (and it is), that's all the clearance the dish companies need to add WBNG for their Elmira customers, which I'd guess would be something both WBNG and the dish folks want to have happen. (WBNG's been on cable in Elmira since time began.) The new rules are also helpful in counties that straddle markets. F'rinstance, I was in central Indiana last month and spent a night in Peru (Indiana). They're officially in the Indianapolis market, but they also get local news from the one and only station in Lafayette, and they get the Fort Wayne stations, too. Oh, and WNDU from South Bend, because you've gotta have ND football. I would assume that if I were a satellite subscriber in Peru, all I would get would be Indianapolis - and if I commute up to Fort Wayne for work, that doesn't do me much good.

Where the system still needs work is my WB situation. I can get a very nice signal from Buffalo's WNYO 49 on my rooftop yagi, but just because *I* watch WNYO doesn't make it "significantly viewed." The stopgap solution that DirecTV has come up with is to offer Miami's WBZL or San Diego's KSWB, depending on time zone, to customers in markets with no local full-power WB outlet. I'd just as soon have WNYO in that situation, thanks.

The FCC's list is 30 years out of date, yes. But most of the cable grandfatherings that are now in place already existed back then, while

most of the new stations that have signed on since are either already well-accustomed to being limited to their designated Nielsen market, or have already gone through the process of being designated as "significantly-viewed" (as, for instance, my local Fox, WUHF 31, which signed on in 1980 but is shown with a "+" sign on the FCC's list in a number of counties near Rochester but outside the market, indicating that it's been added to the FCC's list since 1972.) s (Scott Fybush, ibid.)

IIRC KCOP-13 is Los Angeles' UPN. Didn't FOX buy it from Chris-Craft or United TV? I can tell you for a fact that only one cable system in metro Detroit had TVOntario (32 Windsor) on their system when I left in '01. Apparently none have CBEFT-54.

It depends on which predominant audience watches the station or (even knows it exists). TV Guide has done a bang-up job of NOT listing all TV stations in most markets, thereby depriving viewers of stations/shows they might be more attuned to watching (and I'm not just talking about religious ones; A1TV & AIN affiliates for example). I can also tell you that four (4) TV stations are purposely missing from our Northern MI edition and/or the State Journal's TV Week (27/31/49/64).

I tell you, if I wasn't so accustomed to flipping the dial, I wouldn't know they are still rerunning Candid Camera (6 PM Sundays, PAX -- WPXD-31 has it, but WZPX-43 runs WB early at that hour). And that other Saturday eve when PAX had that crime-drama movie on? 43 had a basketball game on --- but 31 had the movie and Lansing probably didn't know it was on. (We need another listings provider, badly.)

"How about the converse? If the only significantly viewed station in my county is KTVZ, if I have satellite can they legally turn on all of the out-of-market network stations for me?"

You mean like Portland's? Either that, or...perhaps you can get a waiver for the Seattle or Los Angeles ones. Do you guys get KTLA at all? Practically, though, they should allow you to decode whatever (domestic) network stations in the next-closest market you need to "round out" your selection. (I wonder if that includes Spanish-language stations?)

Proving once again that TVG editors don't know much about actual TV viewing in the first place, much less about constant changes of channel lineups in local DMAs. I bet a bunch of WTFDAers (like myself for example) can put together something much better (Keith K. Smith, Lansing, MI, ibid.)

** U S A. KVDO Ch. 3 Salem Oregon --- They signed on the air in the

early 70s as an independent and "struggled" for several years. By the late 1970s their owners put them up for sale and the station was bought by Liberty Communications (KEZI ch. 9 Eugene and owner of several cable companies including Bend Cable TV).

KEZI had the "brilliant" idea of running the station as a totally slave Satellite which meant they we bring an 2nd ABC station to the Portland market, KATU ch. 2 Portland, ABC, took legal action and forced KEZI to blackout all ABC programing on KVDO which meant they were going to incur additional costs to run the station so a short time later they put the station up for sale.

OREGON PUBLIC BROADCASTING for years was only able to supply programming to western Oregon. When KVDO came on the market the state Legislature was asked to appropriate money to purchase it. The problem was the KVDO converge area was already cover by the 2 OPB stations. At almost the same time KTVR ch. 13 in La Grande was put on the market by KTVB in Boise. KTVR had always been slave satellite of KTVB but with the expansion of translators by KTVB into eastern Oregon the station did not warrant continued expenses (KTVR had one time listed translators in Yakima and the Tri-cities in Washington State).

The people of eastern Oregon thought it made more sense to buy KTVR than KVDO but the state decided to buy KVDO. There was a general uproar and one person cut the guy wires on KVDO's tower and put the station off the air for a few weeks.

Eventually with all the public pressure the state purchased KTVR but was still getting a lot of complaints about KVDO just being a duplication of service so the state finally decided to apply to move the station to Bend and that happened in the early 1980s. KVDO then becoming KOAB.

An interesting side story: When I heard KEZI had sold KVDO to the state I sent off a letter to see if I could get any of the station's old letterheads, etc. A few days later I got a large envelope from OPB officials at KVDO who told me all of KVDO items were already gone but they had a couple of months of KVDO's old mail so they sent it to me! Apparently when KEZI decided to sell the station they longer had anyone working at the KVDO studios in Salem so the mail just built up! 73 (Frank Aden, ID, Feb 10, WTFDA via DXLD)

**** VANUATU. TECHNICIANS ANSWER RADIO VANUATU RECEPTION DILEMMA**

Fred Vurobaravu - Vanuatu Daily Post Friday, February 11, 2005
<http://www.news.vu/en/news/national/050211-technicians-repair-radio.shtml>

The management of the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation

has announced the resurrection of its short wave transmitter, which was fired up 4 pm last Tuesday.

[`4 pm last Tuesday`` would be 0500 UT Feb 8, just an hour before David Norcross in HI reported hearing 7260 in 5-025 --- gh]

The people around the country who receive Radio Vanuatu services through the short wave frequency can now hear the station again on 7260 kHz.

Prime Minister and Minister responsible for media Ham Lini specially acknowledged the commitment and dedication of Radio Vanuatu senior technician Willie Daniel with the technical support of the consultant Hendrick Kettner to overcome the defaulted radio transmission wave link.

The transmitter went down during the week of Christmas. For seven weeks VBTC technicians, led by Acting Technician Manager Daniel, sweated to revive the transmitter.

Midway through January, Kettner was brought in to assist. At the same time spare parts supplied by Radio Australia boosted their repair efforts.

Mr Kettner said the problem was a series of faults in many areas of the transmitter, which took them time to identify and rectify. He said the final answer to the puzzle was located Tuesday morning. In the afternoon it was fixed and at 4 pm the transmitter was successfully fired up.

The management has decided to allow the transmitter to run for a few weeks before work begins to fix the faulty component for switching from the daytime frequency of 7260 KHz to the night time frequency of 3940 KHz.

[sic: it's listed as 3945 in WIRTH 2005 and elsewhere; or could a change be in the offing, to 3940 perhaps with less interference? --gh]

For now listeners in some parts of the country will experience loss of signal starting from 5 pm to 7 am the next day. But during the day, the signal should be clear.

[Local time UT +11, so it's scheduled to be on at 2000-0600 UT --- but it's usually reported after 0600! They may as well keep leaving the 'day' frequency on at night, indeed much better for us and surely of some use inside Vanuatu too --- gh]

The prime minister's office also thanked Rod Newel for the provision

of the services of his company the Renere1 Tech Ltd to VBTC when the short wave transmission was down for the last few months.

Radio reception in the islands is heavily reliant on the transmitter functioning well. The President of the Republic of Vanuatu Kalkot Mataskelekele has made repeated calls to have the radio transmissions in the islands reopened so that people can have access to news, info and entertainment (via Mike Terry, dxldyg, Artie Bigley, DXLD)

UNIDENTIFIED [non]. 1187.85 identified --- It is simply MOROCCO program C from Casablanca 1 kW, identified by // 1044 kHz. My antenna direction was misleading because I just nulled out BEL/D (G,nter Lorenz, Icom R75, Grahn magnetic loop, Currently near La Spezia, Italy, MWDX yg via DXLD)

UNIDENTIFIED. Yosemite Sam also heard here Feb 11: 2125 on 10500, and stronger on 6500 repeating at 40 second intervals but not synchronized, as usual. Also at 2310 recheck, 6500 was even better, but some nearby SSB QRM and still audible on 10500 at 2323. Nothing audible on 3700 at either time. Later around 0600, 3700 was audible. The burst on 6500 comes right before the one on 10500. I should point out that YS was previously traced to the Albuquerque NM area, but purpose and source unknown (Glenn Hauser, Enid, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Heard here UT 2-12-05 from 0435 to 0500, Weak signal on both 10500 usb and 6500 usb, repeating at 40 second intervals but not in parallel. Switching to 3700 usb at 0455 revealed a much stronger signal, even blasting through the CW traffic on that frequency, with a buzzing noise, then "Varmint! Ima gonna blow ya ta smithereens!" every 40 seconds (John Beattie, Ventura, CA, Drake R8B, PAR EF-SWL, 50 foot wire, MFJ 1026, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Yosemite Sam also heard here 2-12-05 from 1021-1030 on three of the frequencies, none in parallel. Strong on 10500, very weak on 6500, fair on 3700. Same pattern: Buzzing noise (data burst?), "Varmint..." stuff, every 40 seconds (Larry Cunningham, Gahanna, Ohio (near Columbus), Kenwood R5000 with indoor antenna, ibid.)

YS is using 10500, 6500, 4300 and 3700 (Steve Lare, Holland MI, ibid.)

Heard here at 1250 to 1255 UT on 4300 and 3700, USB and LSB. Sigs on 4300 peaking about S5 and 3700 barely audible due mostly to my noisy computer. YS isn't using AM as I near as I can tell (Nate Bargmann, NONB, Marysville, KS, FT-920, MFJ-986, 75m Zepp @ 5m, DXLD)

Heard here again at 1529 UT Feb. 12 on 6500 and 10500. 6500 was poorer here and very weak at tune in. As Glenn noted, 6500 and 10500 do not

seem to be in sync. The brief data burst before the voice transmission was heard on 10500 but could not tell if it was there on 6500. Nothing heard on 4300 or 3700. (Carl DeWhitt, KI5SF, Ponca City, OK, ibid.)

I was wondering about the so called "data burst"? Is there really data being transmitted or is that just a figure of speech - data burst? (Chuck Bolland, FL, ibid.) Good question. Someone needs to analyze it (gh, DXLD)

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## PUBLICATIONS

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## TV GUIDE CHANNEL LINEUPS

A TVG collector out of Dallas, Joe Isham, designed this page with links to the respective editions' PDF line-ups on TVG's website. Check out: <http://gridlockjoe.home.comcast.net/tvgtrack.htm> (Tim Ripley, Feb 11, WTFDA via DXLD)

## DRM

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[MEXICO] ``¥Unlike the lower DRM frequencies, it had a regular steady fade cycle, which I doubted was propagationally caused.``

--- I think I already made such observations as well, but I did not pay further attention.

¥¥Hybrid DRM/analog is an option, but it has rarely if ever been used.¥¥

--- Indeed I am not aware of any hybrid test on shortwave so far, and also of no other MW/LW site than Zehlendorf running hybrid mode (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

## RADIO EQUIPMENT FORUM

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## RAILROAD TRACK ANTENNAS

Re railroad signaling: Insulated joints are necessary where small voltage is used to detect track occupancy. Here in Europe this system is considered obsolete and wheel counters being state of the art -- but they cost four times more than the small voltage system which we for this reason still use in some new projects if track resistance permits. Systems with audio frequencies work without insulated joints and were quite popular in the past, but are not used for new

installations anymore. All this goes specifically for Germany of course. And yes, one should better hesitate from connecting a mediumwave transmitter to railroad tracks ... All the best, (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Feb 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

POWERLINE COMMUNICATIONS  
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#### BPL MAY BE DEAD IN NEBRASKA FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE

According to comments heard on the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club net (2100 local, 146.760 -), BPL may be dead in Nebraska for the foreseeable future. LB 136 (apparently a bill permitting public utilities in Nebraska to get into any broadband services) did not make it out of committee.

LB 645 is a bill sponsored by the telcos that would prohibit the public utilities from getting into the broadband business did make it onto the Unicameral floor, as I (NONB) understand it.

Another bill, LB 722, would permit the utilities to pursue broadband services and several hams testified against it. More details may be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/NE.html>

In Nebraska the public utilities are publicly owned and controlled by the state. This could be an interesting battle if the utilities challenge the State's right to prohibit them something authorized by the federal government. 73, de (Nate Bargmann, Wireless | Amateur Radio Station NONB, dxldyg via DXLD)

#### A JOINT STRATEGY

Two well known national Amateur Radio societies are joining forces to fight the introduction of Broadband Over Powerline technology. The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters and the Wireless Institute of Australia say that they are pooling their resources on the BPL issue in the effort because problems involved in its introduction are similar in both nations.

The NZART and the WIA say that they plan to work as a team in an effort to achieve a positive outcome on this issue for Amateur Radio operators in both countries. The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters has already produced a very informative webpage that contains many links to the WIA and many other informative information. For its part, the Wireless Institute of Australia has added a link to the new NZART webpages via its BPL menu and links to the very extensive ARRL BPL pages as well (WIA & NZART via WIA News via ARNewsline February 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

## PROPAGATION

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### THE 160 METER BAND

You would think that with the 160-meter band relatively close in frequency to the 80-meter band that the two would exhibit very similar propagation characteristics. Truth be told, they are worlds apart. The 160-meter band: an enigma shrouded in mystery, say Cary Oler of the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch and Ted Kohen, N4XX.

The propagation characteristics of the 160-meter band (1800-2000 kHz) have puzzled both amateur and professional communicators for decades. While located not far below the 80 and 75 meter bands (3500-4000 kHz), predicting propagation on Topband, as it is affectionately called, has been an exercise in futility, they say. For example, John Devoldere, ON4UN, in his book *Antennas and Techniques for Low-Band DXing* notes thatÖ ``The more I have been active on 160, the more I am convinced on how little we know about propagation on that band.``

Signals in the 160-meter band are most strongly affected by changes in the electron density of the ionosphere's D-region. During the day, the D-region is strongly ionized, and so, it is the major source of absorption on 160 meters. During the night, the density of the D-layer drops dramatically (though it does not disappear completely); this results in a corresponding drop in signal absorption. Small increases in electron density at low frequencies produce large changes in signal absorption. When conditions on the 160-meter band are so good that you momentarily believe you are listening to a good opening on the 20-meter band, what may in fact have produced these extraordinary good conditions were unusually large depletions in electron density in the D-region. Just what can cause such large drops in D-layer electron density is still not well understood by the ionospheric scientific community.

It is very interesting to note that 160-meter signal strengths are very difficult to correlate with solar activity, assert Cohen and Devoldere. The correlation between sunspot numbers and signal strength is only about 5% as strong as the correlation on higher frequencies, or often signal strengths of 160-meter signals completely disregard sunspot numbers or solar flux levels.

A considerable number of DX openings on Topband over distances greater than 4,000 km may owe their occurrence to a phenomenon known as Signal Ducting. A ball thrown into a narrow tunnel will bounce around the walls of the tunnel while maintaining its general direction of travel. In essence, it is ``ducted`` through the tunnel.



Similarly, a radio signal that is ``shot`` into an ionospheric ``tunnel`` will duct between the walls of the tunnel until the walls either disappear or become weak enough to permit the signal to break through. The walls of an ionospheric tunnel are the edges of the ionospheric layers, say Oler and Cohen.

The winter season is the right time for Topband DXing! (DX Editor: Dimitar Petrov, LZ1AF, R. Bulgaria DX program Feb 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD) This also applies to top end of the MWBC band -1700

#### THUNDERSTORM EFFECTS ON 144 MHz SPORADIC E PROPAGATION

Do thunderstorm create sporadic E propagation in VHF? Some say yes and others say no. Now, an international team of radio amateurs has studied this subject in detail by analyzing scientific results and QSO data compiled during the 2004 sporadic E season.

In a detailed paper, DL1DBC, PE1NWL, DK5YA, EA6VQ, DL8HCZ and DF5AI discuss a possible model of thunderstorm-triggered sporadic E propagation on very high frequencies. The paper will appear in the spring issue of the Dubus magazine. More about it and the topic is on line at <http://www.df5ai.net> (DF5AI via ARNewsline February 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD) ###